Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

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SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /204 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5998

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 6366

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC, GATT, ETRD

SUBJ: STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY POSITION ON TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6337

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PERMANENT DELEGATION SOURCES HERE, THOUGH THE NOVEMBER 6 EC COUNCIL DID NOT ISSUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A MANDATE TO THE COMMISSION THE TERMS OF THE MANDATE

ARE NOT VERY CLEAR. THE COMMISSION CAN SPEAK DEFINITIVELY FOR THE COMMUNITY ONLY ON THOES ISSUES ON WHICH MEMBER STATES ARE IN AGREEMENT. OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION CANNOT SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ON SECTION II (PHASING OUT OF UNILATERALS) AND SECTION IV (BILATERALS) OF THE LONG DRAFT. INTERNAL CAUCUSES IN GENEVA MAY BE ABLE TO CLEAR UP SOME OF THESE POINTS, BUT MOST FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS MUST AWAIT FUTURE COUNCIL DECISIONS. END SUMMARY.

- 2. SOURCES IN THE PERMDELS INFORM US THAT THE NOV. 6
 COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON TEXTILES WAS VERY CONFUSING.
 A WORKING GROUP HAD MET SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE PREVIOUS
 DAYS ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT CIRCULATED INFORMALLY BY
 LONG. THE WORKING GROUP HAD EXPECTED TO HAVE THE
 COUNCIL DEBATE MAJOR POINTS STILL BEING DISPUTED AMONG
 THE MEMBER STATES. (BRITIAN AND GERMANY BELIEVE THAT
 THE OTHER SEVEN MEMBER STATES FAVOR TOO RESTRICTIVE AN
 AGREEMENT.) AFTER DECISION OF THESE GENERAL POINTS
 THE COUNCIL WAS SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIVE
 MANDATE.
- 3. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL CALLED FIRST FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON THE MANDATE ITSELF, BEFORE RESOLVING THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES. THE COMMISSION INSISTED THAT IT HAD TO HAVE A MANDATE FOR THE GENEVA MEETING. THE RESULT WAS A DECISION TO ISSUE A MANDATE STATING THAT THE COMMISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE PART IN NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA ON POINT ON WHICH THE MEMBER STATES AGREE BUT THE COMMISSION IS NOT TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THOSE ISSUES WHERE MEMBER STATES ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT. THE MANDATE IS ONE OF FORM WITHOUT SUB-STANTIVE DIRECTIVES. ITS IMPLICATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN GENEVA BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE MEMBER STATESS. OUR SOURCES DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE EC CAUCUSES AT GENEVA WILL MAEK MUCH PROGRESS ON THE MAJOR POINTS BEING DISPUTED. THESE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE PUT OFF UNTIL THE DCEMBR 3 COUNCIL MEETING.
- 4. THE MAJOR IMMEDIATE POINTS OF DISPUTE AMONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MEMBER STATES ARE SECTION II AND IV OF THE LONG DRAFT. SECTION II CONCERNS THE PECIFIC TIMETABLE FOR THE PHASING OUT OF UNJUSTIFIED UNILATERAL RESTRICTIONS. SECTION IV CONCERNS THE CONDITIONS FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

5. AN OFFICER ON ONE OF THE DELEGATIONS TOLD US THAT IT IS DISPUTALE WHETHER THE TREATY PROCEDUURES HAVE

BEEN FOLLOWED IN SEEKING THE TEXTILE MANDATE. AT NO TIME DID THE COMMISSION TABLE A PAPER WITH THE USUAL ANNEX CONTAINING THE TEXT OF A PROPOSED MANDATE FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION. THIS IS A CONSTUTIONAL ISSUE OF NO GREAT CONCERN TO US. IT IS MERELY AN INDICATION OF SOME MEMBER STATE PIQUE AT THE COMMISSION'S HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE.

6. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS SUBJECT IN CURRENT US/EC RELATIONS, THE MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED BY TELEGRAM OF THE PROGRESS OF THE TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS.GREENWALD

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